

REMARKS

Applicant has amended claims 1 and 3.

Claims 1-5 have been rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 3,988,535 (Hickman) in view of U.S. Patent No. 3,899,634 (Montone) and U.S. Patent No. 5,926,950 (Asai). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

“To establish *prima facie* obviousness of a claimed invention, all the claim limitations must be taught or suggested by the prior art. ... All words in a claim must be considered in judging the patentability of that claim against the prior art.” MPEP 2143.03. “Patent examiners carry the responsibility of making sure that the standard of patentability enunciated by the Supreme Court and by the Congress is applied in each and every case.” (Emphasis original) MPEP 2141 I.

All the Examiner states about the disclosures of Hickman is that “Hickman discloses in Figs. 1-7B substantially all the claimed limitations, except for displaying device, a position matching device and a storage portion.” See paragraph 2 of the Action. Hickman’s FIGS. 1-7B correspond to all the embodiments of Hickman. This rejection fails because the Examiner did not carry his responsibility to establish that all claim limitations are taught or suggested in specific portions in the prior art.

Applicant has reviewed Hickman in its entirety and found that no part of Hickman discloses the claimed plurality of component feeding units and the claimed mounting head provided with suction nozzles. In addition, claims 1 and 5 state that the recognition camera takes the images of the component feeding positions sequentially. Thus, the claimed recognition camera takes the images of the component feeding positions one by one. Claim 3 states that the images of the component feeding positions of the component feeding units are taken in one sequence for each of the feeder bases.

For the Examiner to understand the claimed test sequence, applicant has amended claim 1 to state that the command device commands the recognition camera to sequentially take images of the component feeding positions of the component feeding units prior to a start of a mounting

operation. This amendment finds support, for example, at page 11, lines 10-20, and page 13, line 31 - page 14, line 5, of the specification. All of Hickman's image taking are performed during Hickman's mounting operation, and thus Hickman does not disclose any image taking prior to a start of a mounting operation as claimed. Claim 3 has been amended to recite substantially the same image taking sequence as claim 1.

In the event that the Examiner maintains this rejection in the next Action, applicant requests that the Examiner point to specific portions of Hickman for the teachings of these claim limitations.

The Examiner admits that Hickman does not teach or suggest the claimed display device, as explained above, and relies on Montone for this teaching. Claim 5 recites a display device collectively displaying all the images of the component feeding positions taken by the recognition camera. Again, the Examiner does not explain what in Montone corresponds to the claimed display device. Since Montone discloses only one display device, monitor 28, applicant assumes that the Examiner equates Montone's monitor 28 to the claimed display device. However, Montone's monitor 28 displays only one image of Montone's article 10 at a time as shown in FIGS. 9-11. See, for example, column 4, lines 19-28, of Montone. Montone's monitor 28 does not display collectively all the images taken by the recognition camera as claimed.

The rejection of claims 1-5 under 35 USC 103(a) over Hickman, Montone and Asai should be withdrawn because they do not teach or suggest the claimed mounting apparatus as a whole.

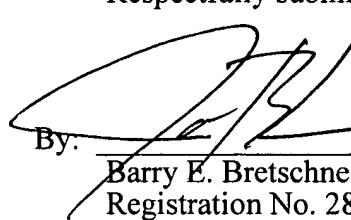
The Examiner requested applicant to provide reference numerals for the elements of the claims either in parentheses within the claims or in the form of a chart. Applicant respectfully declines to do so. First, applicant is not aware of any rule that requires applicant to comply with the Examiner's request. Second, there is case law, albeit not very recent, that has limited claim scope because of the assignment of reference numerals to claim elements during prosecution. Applicant would prefer not to risk such undesired limitations of claim scope and respectfully request the Examiner's understanding on this matter.

In light of the above, a Notice of Allowance is solicited.

In the event that the transmittal letter is separated from this document and the Patent and Trademark Office determines that an extension and/or other relief is required, applicant petitions for any required relief including extensions of time and authorizes the Commissioner to charge the cost of such petitions and/or other fees due in connection with the filing of this document to **Deposit Account No. 03-1952**, referencing Docket No. **606402014300**.

Respectfully submitted,

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